

DuPont Friday Letter

“A Good Week for Science...”

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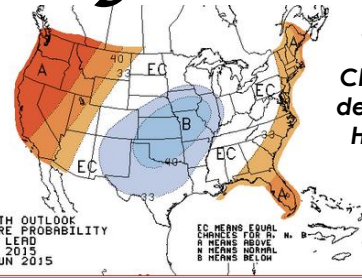
After living in Las Vegas, the Deep South, Texas, visiting the Mideast on numerous occasions and suffering in the tropics of Central America, I really can't bring myself to join the teeming masses of the Pacific NW who lament “wow, it's hot”. I'm glad it's not 90 anymore, I will give you that. Here is some information about the heat and how it affects our quality of life. Enjoy the cool!

Why the Hot Weather? The recent hot weather is caused by two main things: the jet stream shifting east putting us under the peak (warm, moist air) instead of in the trough (cool, dry air). The really high temperatures happen when a high pressure ridge settles in and won't move (mostly because the jet stream keeps it pinned over us). These two factors, in great part helped along by a strong El Niño, mean hot weather and very little rain. The National Weather Service says we're in for a long, hot summer: [NWS Climate Prediction Center](http://www.noaa.gov/climate/prediction-center)

Our Water Situation A number of people have asked why the City is not undertaking water conservation measures like other parts of the U.S. (usually preceded by a pithy question like, “what's wrong with you guys, don't you know there's a drought?”). Luckily, we are served in DuPont by 5 wells drawing from deep, clean aquifers: the Upper Salmon Springs and Outwash/ Lakewood Glacier Aquifers. Learn more about aquifers here: [USGS Water School - Aquifers](http://www.usgs.gov/water-school-aquifers) What that means to us, is that the water we use is not dependent on seasonal precipitation or on reservoirs storing the water. Just because we have our water supplied by aquifers that are full now, doesn't mean it's inexhaustible or that we should waste it. The City has recently upgraded our irrigation system so we can save water and we spend a lot of time examining the system for leaks and water loss. Not surprisingly, aquifers do run dry. Recent NASA imagery show some U.S. aquifers are being depleted at alarming rates (ours are above normal). [NASA Groundwater Imagery](http://www.nasa.gov/groundwater-imagery) has some great info. Watching the animation really shows how fast they're going in some places. This is caused by pumping water out for use (like we do) and persistent drought. Please conserve water by doing things like washing vehicles at commercial car washes that recycle water (most do these days), watering grass with the right amount at the right times, and not spraying sidewalks or streets. More stringent water conservation measures may not be necessary today, but it's better to save now than have to ration later.



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
1-5 MONTH LEAD
VALID ASD 2015
MADE 18 JUN 2015



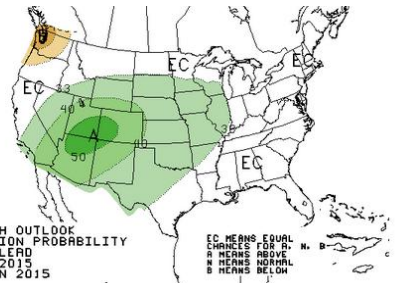
July 10, 2015

Chance of temperature departures from normal: High chance of hotter temps through Sep

Chance of precipitation departures from normal: High chance of lower amounts this summer



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
1-5 MONTH LEAD
VALID ASD 2015
MADE 18 JUN 2015



City Irrigation Why do we still have dry, un-watered parks if we have plenty of water? Cost. Cities have to pay the same rates for meters and water as everyone else. The Mayor and City Council last year allocated about \$80,000 more than in 2014 to start to address this situation. You can see green in the medians, side of the roads and in parks like Clock Tower and Chief Leschi that used to be brown. Here are photos from Google Earth (pulled today) illustrating how Chief Leschi and Clock Tower looked in summers past.



Unfortunately, that's how our parks in Historic Village and other areas look today.

No one is proud of brown, dormant grass. Mayor Grayum and Council will be reviewing irrigation of parks at the July 21 Workshop. Staff will be presenting data on total water usage (we pumped over 30M more gallons this June compared to last June for instance), where we've irrigated, how we spend money for watering, whether funds are available for more irrigation and setting priorities for the last two-thirds of summer. We are irrigating more parks (we already started in Iafrati) but the workshop will set a path for how we can do more. It will be one of the more interesting meetings we have this year, so please come by if you can. The Workshop starts at 6:00 p.m.

Community Calendar

<http://www.dupontwa.gov/events.php>